

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

JANUARY 13, 2009

AMENDMENT TO AGENDA ITEM #2

The County of Los Angeles serves to gain numerous benefits by utilizing sources of renewable energy to offset our electrical demand. This will allow us to reduce our carbon emissions, meet our energy efficiency benchmarks, and provide a more sustainable and cost effective means of operation.

However, the County also has an opportunity to take a leadership role by developing a comprehensive renewable energy program for our residents to ensure that the homes and businesses throughout the County have access to adequate resources, information and incentives to reduce their carbon footprint and make environmental friendly and fiscally prudent investments.

The County has already initiated a web-based Solar Map, scheduled to be made public this Spring, that will allow residents and local businesses to assess the energy savings and cost effectiveness of installing solar panels on their property. However, other opportunities ranging from community choice aggregation, home energy audits and financing of residential renewable energy projects are just some of the additional strategies that the County should consider as part of a holistic and comprehensive renewable energy program.

President-elect Obama has indicated intent to prioritize energy efficiency measures as a key component of an economic stimulus package. LA County can be at the forefront of partnering with the Federal government in the creation of green jobs to support solar and other renewable energy projects and must be prepared and proactive about capitalizing on this unique opportunity to fund a Renewable Energy Program.

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I, THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Direct the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), in coordination with the Intergovernmental Relations Unit, to incorporate a solar installation program as well as other appropriate renewable-energy and energy-efficiency proposals as part of our Economic Stimulus funding request.
2. Direct the CEO and appropriate departmental staff to report back to the Board by January 31, 2009 with an action plan for developing a Comprehensive Renewable Energy Program. This action plan would include recommendations on:
 - a) Timeframes for meeting key benchmarks (including proposal development, program establishment, and implementation); and
 - b) An outreach plan to incorporate community input from residents, developers, and other interested stakeholders.
3. Direct the CEO to report back to the Board with a comprehensive proposal for a Renewable Energy Program no later than April 1, 2009. The proposal should include, but not be limited to:
 - a) A cost analysis, feasibility assessment, and recommendations regarding constituent-focused initiatives to be included in the Program. The proposal should include an analysis of community choice aggregation, home energy audits, financing of residential renewable energy products, and other initiatives as deemed appropriate;
 - b) Policy recommendations for renewable projects on County property, including protocols for public-private partnerships, new construction, leased facilities, and existing buildings;
 - c) Identification and recommendations of existing best practices and opportunities to partner with other local jurisdictions;
 - d) Benchmarks for the Board to consider adopting regarding conversion to a renewable energy portfolio to meet our electrical needs;
 - e) Strategy for soliciting Federal Energy Block Grants funds to support a comprehensive Renewable Energy Program; and
 - f) Additional recommendations for inclusion in our State and Federal legislative agenda.

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